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# Security Council

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## Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council the fourteenth quarterly report on the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) (see annex). It is submitted by the Acting Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999) of 17 December 1999.

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## Annex

# Fourteenth quarterly report on the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999)

## I. Introduction

1. The present report, which is the fourteenth[a] submitted in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284 (1999), covers the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) during the period from 1 June to 31 August 2003.

## II. Developments

2. During the period under review, the Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC briefed the Security Council at an open meeting on 5 June (on the thirteenth quarterly report). During that meeting, Council members took note of the intention of the Executive Chairman to retire from his post at the end of June 2003. They expressed their sincere thanks to Hans Blix for his service and appreciation for the efforts undertaken by him and his team to implement the mandate of UNMOVIC, and paid tribute to him for his leadership and the dedicated and professional manner in which he had been guiding the work of UNMOVIC in pursuit of the disarmament of Iraq.

3. On 30 June, Mr. Blix ended his assignment as Executive Chairman. The Secretary-General appointed the Deputy Executive Chairman, Demetrius Perricos, as Acting Executive Chairman, effective 1 July. Mr. Perricos has continued the practice of briefing the respective Presidents of the Security Council, representatives of Member States and officials of the Secretariat. He has also visited the Commission's field office in Larnaca, Cyprus, which was in the process of being downsized and having its operations consolidated.

4. Resolution 1483 (2003), adopted on 22 May, underlines the intention of the Council to revisit the mandates of UNMOVIC and IAEA as set forth in several earlier resolutions. To date, this has not happened and UNMOVIC has continued with those parts of its mandate that remain operable. There has been some downsizing of the staff as a result of the adoption of resolution 1483 (2003) and the lifting of the economic sanctions on Iraq. There have also been adjustments to some of the assignments within UNMOVIC without altering the organizational plan approved by the Security Council (S/2000/292 and Corr.1).

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[a] The Commission's 13 previous reports were issued as documents S/2000/516, S/2000/835, S/2000/1134, S/2001/177, S/2001/515, S/2001/833, S/2001/1126, S/2002/195, S/2002/606, S/2002/981, S/2002/1303, S/2003/232 and S/2003/580.

## III. Other activities

5. The Commission's headquarters staff has been engaged in a number of tasks since inspectors were withdrawn from Iraq in March 2003. The work has been set out in an internal work programme which is divided into a number of broad projects related to a future monitoring plan, subject files, disarmament-related issues, training and internal seminars as well as database development. It is designed to continue for some months and is part of the Commission's internal regular work.

6. As Security Council resolution 1483 (2003) seems to have left untouched the UNMOVIC mandate for implementing ongoing monitoring and verification, one of the projects is the development of the requirements for a new monitoring plan to fit the altered environment in Iraq following the war. This work will take into consideration the nature and scope of the sites, equipment and operations previously subject to monitoring and assess the requirements for future monitoring under post-war conditions. Other aspects of this task include an examination of the implications for future monitoring activities as a result of the lifting of economic sanctions, as well as an examination of the nature of possible changes to the system of periodic declarations on the export/import and holdings of dual-use items and materials, previously required under the ongoing monitoring and verification plan (S/22871/Rev.1) approved by the Security Council in resolution 715 (1991). Another task is related to an overview of the known capabilities of Iraq's industry, including research and development, that could be useful for activities related to chemical and biological weapon production, and the preparation of models for site monitoring.

7. Another project aims at charting what is known and understood of the extent and nature (financing, staffing, management, structure, subordination, overseas procurement activities, etc.) of Iraq's programmes of weapons of mass destruction. A comprehensive evaluation of some of these programmes would require access to additional information, including interviews with personnel from the programmes. The work includes updating and expanding the Commission's database of Iraqi personnel once engaged in, or otherwise associated with, the past proscribed activities. The overall objective is to form a compendium as an objective record encompassing the knowledge and experience gained by UNMOVIC and its predecessor the United Nations Special Commission over the years, in line with the recommendations of the College of Commissioners at their meeting in May.

8. On the basis of previous and recent experience, a series of technical files are being compiled on Iraq's weapon destruction activities and methods, as part of an effort to develop procedures for verifying Iraq's claim that the majority of its weapons holdings were destroyed in the early 1990s. This work builds on earlier efforts of the Special Commission to account for items and material based on a fuller understanding of the destruction techniques declared used by Iraq, for example for VX and anthrax. This series of technical files will also cover the destruction operations conducted under UNMOVIC supervision, such as that for the mustard agent in 155-mm shells, the Al Samoud 2 missiles and related engines as well as casting chambers.

9. Other technical files will cover the review and consolidation of existing documents and reports on Iraq's procurement networks, on chemical and biological-related munitions, on missile guidance and control systems and solid propellant technology, as well as on mobile laboratories and remotely piloted vehicles.

## IV. Database, archive and information technology

10. The Commission's staff in the Division of Information has completed the final part of the project to upgrade the UNMOVIC information systems infrastructure. They are also archiving all the materials and documents produced or gathered during inspections in Iraq carried out from 27 November 2002 to 17 March 2003 and have introduced a second version of the Site Database System which allows staff to complete post-inspection updating of all inspection site information. They continue to scan material from the physical archive of the Special Commission and UNMOVIC into an electronic format to improve the potential for search, retrieval, analysis and storage of relevant information. Staff has also been reviewing all inspection reports to ensure that all data pertaining to an inspected site, including maps and imagery, are entered into the site database.

## V. Field offices in Larnaca, Baghdad, Mosul and Bahrain

### Larnaca

11. The staff of the UNMOVIC field office in Larnaca continues to maintain sensitive inspection and monitoring (surveillance) equipment, much of which was withdrawn from Iraq on 18 March. The staff in the field office has been reduced from 10 persons, immediately following the withdrawal from Iraq, to two international and three local staff. The office has completed a full inventory of all equipment and, wherever required, has conducted serviceability checks. Some of the more sophisticated inspection equipment has been returned to UNMOVIC headquarters in New York and is now being used for familiarization and refresher training for the New York-based inspectors. This includes metal analysers, a portable gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer, X-ray digital radioscopy systems, ground-penetrating radar, a digital surveillance system, and a chemical analyser. In addition, the Larnaca staff has been assisting the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service with their return to Iraq, on an almost daily basis.

### Baghdad

12. The terrorist attack perpetrated on 19 August against the United Nations Headquarters at the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, which included UNMOVIC offices, caused numerous deaths and injuries among international and Iraqi staff and considerable damage to the buildings on the site. According to information available at the time of finalizing this report, two UNMOVIC local staff lost their lives in the attack. UNMOVIC expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to their families for their loss. The nature and extent of damage to the UNMOVIC offices and technical facilities remains to be assessed.

13. All of the Commission's remaining local staff continues under contract. Until 19 August, the local staff maintained the UNMOVIC offices and rooms and secured all UNMOVIC equipment. They also secured the IAEA equipment remaining in the inspection team areas of the building. At the same time, they have been supporting the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General at the United Nations Canal Hotel offices. The UNMOVIC administrative spaces and office equipment, computers, etc. had

been loaned to the vanguard of United Nations organizations (Offices of the Special Representative and the Humanitarian Coordinator, International Monetary Fund and World Bank) that arrived at the Canal Hotel early in June. United Nations agencies in the Canal Hotel were also using the UNMOVIC satellite communication antennae and hand-held radios. UNMOVIC vehicles were being repaired and loaned to United Nations organizations as needed. However, there were only 23 UNMOVIC vehicles remaining. The 69 missing vehicles include all six buses as well as one of the four ambulances. UNMOVIC is working with the Headquarters Property Survey Board to write off these vehicles, the five Chilean helicopters stationed at Al Rasheed Airbase which were United Nations property but totally destroyed, and other equipment as it is determined to be missing or destroyed. Items with a limited shelf life, such as field rations and medicines, were offered for transfer to other United Nations organizations now operating in Iraq.

**Mosul**

14. With the exception of some computers and office equipment, which was loaned to the staff of the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Mosul, all UNMOVIC property has been removed from Mosul and is now secured at the United Nations Canal Hotel building in Baghdad. None of the equipment in Mosul was looted.

**Bahrain**

15. Early in June, UNMOVIC received a request from another United Nations organization to utilize the premises of the UNMOVIC field office in Bahrain. As the Larnaca field office is fully operational and can meet all of the Commission's needs in the future, UNMOVIC has agreed to the request, subject to approval by the Government of Bahrain.

## VI. Staffing

16. The contracts of all 70 UNMOVIC inspectors from the roster who had been under contract at the time of the Commission's last report late in May have not been renewed. The present UNMOVIC core staff in the Professional grades at Headquarters comprises 57 weapons experts and other staff (of 25 nationalities). Of these, nine are women. This compares with a total of 76 Professional staff at the end of May.

17. The UNMOVIC roster of trained experts available to serve at short notice in Iraq comprises 354 individuals in 55 countries. The persons on the roster are kept informed of the activities of UNMOVIC through its reports, its web site and occasional newsletters.

18. As noted above, the Commission retains the services of local national staff in Bahrain, Cyprus and Iraq. They are mainly engaged in supporting other United Nations operations as well as caretaker duties. The number of staff may be further reduced in the coming quarter.

## VII. Training

19. In order to maintain the technical skills and expertise of its Headquarters staff, the UNMOVIC training section has organized and is conducting a series of short courses and seminars on new technologies and in the areas relevant to monitoring of dual-use items. Advanced training of experts from the roster may be resumed in the near future if it appears that there is a need. Comprehensive training also continues to be conducted on the UNMOVIC information and database systems to keep all relevant staff up to date on the information systems resources available to them.

## VIII. Non-inspection sources of information

20. The work of the Commission's photograph interpreters to exploit and process post-war commercial satellite imagery of sites in Iraq relevant for inspection was interrupted by the temporary unavailability of such commercial imagery. The identification of changes at the sites would be important for the preparation of monitoring plans for those sites.

21. Informal contacts are maintained with representatives of Member States with access to information pertaining to Iraq's programmes of weapons of mass destruction. The Office for Outside Information Sources and the analysts continue to search for and analyse material from the media that may be relevant to the Commission's ongoing efforts to keep informed of Iraq's activities relating to those programmes. This includes findings by the Coalition reported through the media.

## IX. Goods review list and associated procedures

22. In accordance with resolution 1409 (2002), UNMOVIC experts had been reviewing and assessing contracts with Iraq under the oil-for-food programme against the criteria contained in the goods review list and its amendments. Since the adoption of resolution 1483 (2003), the activities of UNMOVIC in reviewing such contracts have ceased. Accordingly, the contracts of the staff involved in this work are not being renewed. The lists of items contained in Security Council resolution 1051 (1996) are being reviewed by UNMOVIC for their suitability under the new circumstances in Iraq. This review is included in the Commission's current work programme.

## X. Operational readiness

23. Until the attack on the United Nations headquarters on 19 August, the physical infrastructure at the Baghdad Ongoing Monitoring and Verification Centre had remained in operational condition. It is expected that the Centre will not be useable for some time to come, and it remains to be determined whether it can be restored for operations or whether new premises will have to be found. Apart from this, UNMOVIC would be able and ready to resume field operations in Iraq, including confirmation of any findings related to disarmament, at short notice if the Council so requests. Most of the essential equipment used for inspection and monitoring had earlier been withdrawn from Iraq and is being maintained in safe storage in the Larnaca field office. The Commission's core technical experts at Headquarters have

had their skills and knowledge enhanced by their recent experience in the field, and international experts on the roster have largely indicated their continuing interest and availability to serve.

## XI. College of Commissioners

24. John Wolf (United States of America) wrote to the Secretary-General on 9 June tendering his resignation from the College of Commissioners with immediate effect. No successor has to date been appointed.

25. Given the routine nature of the activity of UNMOVIC during this reporting period, the College was not convened in August. In accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 1284 (1999), the Commissioners were, however, consulted on the contents of the present report by e-mail.